

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recyclable image-recording medium comprising:  
a base layer;  
a surface layer comprising a water-swelling resin, the surface layer allowing printed material formed thereon to be separated upon application of an aqueous solvent; and  
an image that is not separable even when the aqueous solution is applied to the image-recording medium.

2. The image-recording medium of claim 1, further comprising:

an intermediate layer having good adhesive properties to both of the base layer and the surface layer, interposed between the base layer and the surface layer.

3. The image-recording medium of claim 1, wherein the image is formed by a printing material that is not reduced in adhesive strength thereof to the surface layer even upon application of the aqueous solution to the image-recording medium.

4. The image-recording medium of claim 3, wherein the printing material is allowed to permeate into an inner portion of the surface layer.

5. The image-recording medium of claim 3, wherein the printing material is allowed to have a chemical bonding to the water-swelling resin of the surface layer.

6. The image-recording medium of claim 1, wherein the image is formed on an inner side under the surface of

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the image-recording medium.

7. The image-recording medium of claim 6, wherein the image is formed inside the surface layer.

8. The image-recording medium of claim 6, wherein the image is formed on the surface of the base layer.

9. The image-recording medium of claim 6, further comprising:

an intermediate layer having good adhesive properties to both of the base layer and the surface layer and being interposed between the base layer and the surface layer,

the image being formed on a surface of the intermediate layer.

10. The image-recording medium of claim 6, further comprising:

an intermediate layer having good adhesive properties to both of the base layer and the surface layer and being interposed between the base layer and the surface layer,

the image being formed inside the intermediate layer.

11. A recyclable image-recording medium comprising:  
a base layer; and

a surface layer comprising a water-swelling resin, the surface layer allowing printed materials formed thereon to be separated upon application of an aqueous solvent,

in which the surface of the image-recording medium has a portion that is not covered with the surface layer.

12. The image-recording medium of claim 11, wherein

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the base layer is exposed at the portion that is not covered with the surface layer.

13. The image-recording medium of claim 11, further comprising:

an intermediate layer having good adhesive properties to both of the base layer and the surface layer,

the base layer being exposed at the portion that is not covered with the surface layer.

14. The image-recording medium of claim 11, further comprising:

an intermediate layer having good adhesive properties to both of the base layer and the surface layer,

wherein the intermediate layer is exposed at the portion that is not covered with the surface layer.

15. The image-recording medium of claim 11, further comprising:

an intermediate layer having good adhesive properties to both of the base layer and the surface layer,

an image being formed between the intermediate layer and base layer.

16. The image-recording medium of claim 11, further comprising:

an intermediate layer having good adhesive properties to both of the base layer and the surface layer,

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17. A recyclable image-recording medium comprising:  
a base layer; and  
a water-swelling resin-layer formed on the base layer,  
the water-swelling resin-layer allowing printed materials  
formed thereon to be separated upon application of an  
aqueous solvent,

in which the surface of the image-recording medium has a portion of the water-swelling resin and a portion of a material that has a characteristic different from the water-swelling resin.